SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year – *September 11, 1972*

No 164

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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Quang Tri

Sixty days and nights of furious and successful resistance

THE Quang Tri liberation troops and people have courageously resisted Operation Lam Son 72 for more than 60 days now.

The enemy has hurled a substantial part of his forces into this campaign, his main counter-offensive in South Viet Nam this Summer, as evidenced by the following facts:

– First, a formidable array of American air and naval forces – the two strongest arms;

– Second, commitment of Saigon's two best divisions.

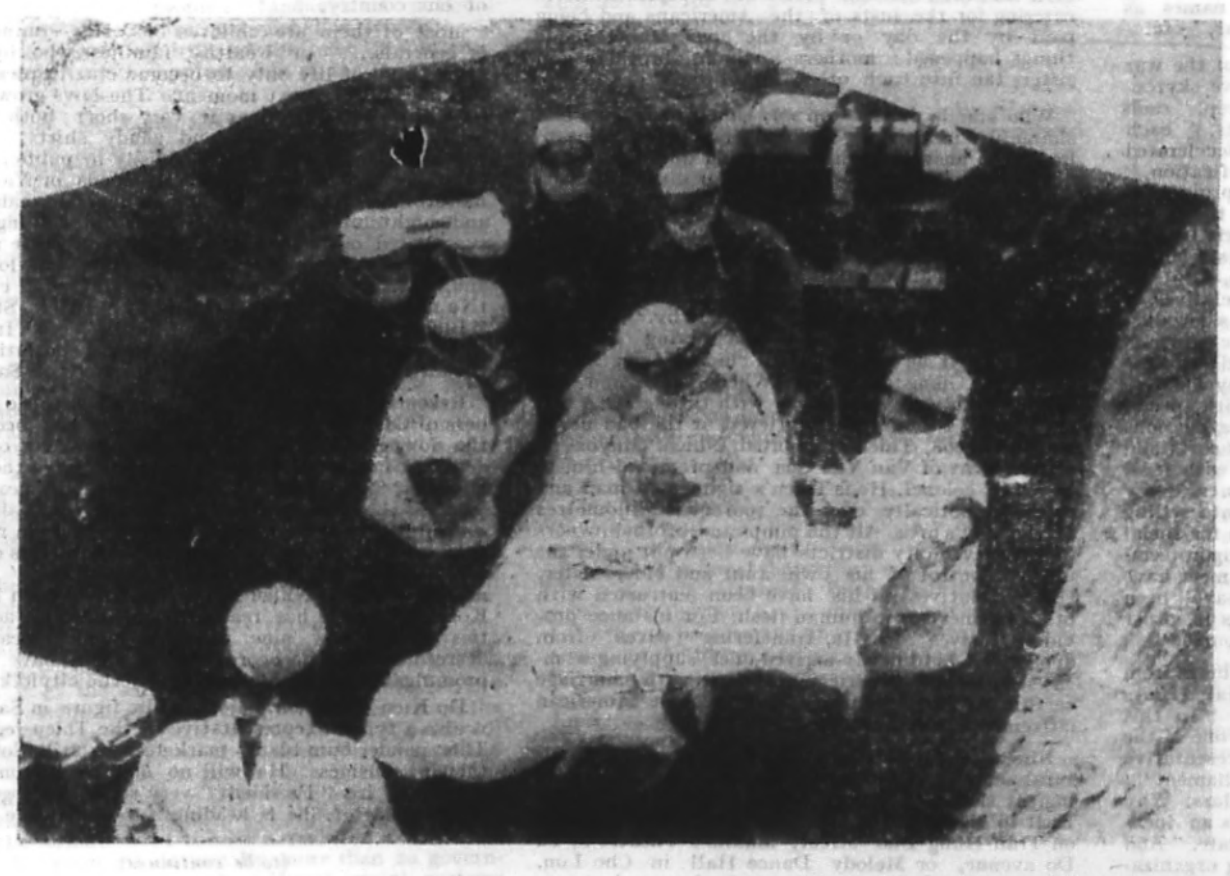
To date, however, this large-scale military and political move has been halted and stalemated. The following can supply the needed explanations:

US Air Force and Navy held in check

A major part of the air and naval forces thrown by Richard Nixon in his military adventure to save his "Vietnamization" – four or five times more than planned – has been concentrated on the Quang Tri front. Every day there are at least 100 sorties of B-52s and 300 of combat jets and armed helicopters apart from 16 or 17 cruisers and destroyers which keep pounding the narrow stretch of land of Quang Tri. The operation is involving one-fourth of the US Fleet of B-52s, and one-fourth of its warships on duty in the the area. Bombs and shells of all descriptions – teleguided, perforating, phosphorus, chemical—are dropped at a level of intensity unknown in war history. In 50 days a total of 80,000 tons of hardware was dumped, equal to the one used by the Americans in a month in Europe at the climax of World War Two. It happened that on some days the amount of bombs used exceeded the daily tonnage employed in 1968 or 1969 throughout South Viet Nam. At times Quang Tri city's area (a little of 1 square mile) and periphery were hit by no less than 20,000 artillery shells. The US Air Force and Navy have been therefore used as the main forces in this counter-action under a new tactics: utilization of US maximal firepower.

Clearly enough, the US Air Force and Navy massive participation in the fray has proved ineffective. The resulted fierceness of the war has disrupted the battle array of the Quang Tri liberation troops. The US maximal fire-power has been unable to help Saigon soldiers advance at the scheduled rate. The time-limit set for the "recapture" of

(*Continued on page 4*)



Even under enemy bombardment, the Liberation Army medical corps performs in time all emergency surgical operations right at the 1st line.

Photo *showing a surgical operation performed underground.*

US War Escalation Condemned

THE 18th World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Tokyo closed on August 7 with a "General Resolution" and an Appeal "For Condemning the New War Escalation by the Nixon Administration in Viet Nam and for Strengthening Support to and Solidarity with the Indochinese Peoples," according to *JPS*.

An appeal was also made to the Japanese people, saying, among other things, "Let us take a stand against co-operation and assistance in the war of aggression in Viet Nam and promote a nation-wide movement to stop combat and supply operations originating from Japan."

The "General Resolution" confirmed that the war of aggression in Viet Nam and in Indochina is part and parcel of the US imperialist plan for world domination, and that the joint struggle against this should in no way be local, but international.

Peace champions throughout the world were called on to unite and take action to solve common tasks, so that they can assure complete victory for the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

In the Appeal "For Condemning the New War Escalation by the Nixon Administration in Viet Nam and for Strengthening Support to and Solidarity with the Indochinese Peoples," the conference denounced Nixon for committing brutal crimes against the Vietnamese people and the other Indochinese peoples. It pointed out that "while talking about peace, the Nixon administration has stepped up its aggression in Indochina, obstinately pursued its 'Vietnamization of the war' program, which is clearly bound for complete bankruptcy.

Maintaining US-rigged puppet regimes in Saigon, Phnom Penh and Vientiane, the US imperialists flagrantly violate the right to self-determination of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples, and try to impose neo-colonialism upon Indochina."

The appeal said:

"It is more than ever evident that Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia constitute the focal point of international confrontation between the imperialist forces headed by US imperialism, and the anti imperialist peace peoples."

The conference sternly condemned the Nixon administration for the crime of aggression in violation of the principles of international law and human integrity committed against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. It indignantly denounced the Nixon administration's new frenzied war escalation, and especially the mining and blockading of the ports and the bombing of dykes, dams and population centres in the DRVN.

The appeal went on:

"We firmly support the just struggles of the peoples of Indochina for national independence and freedom. We highly value the good will shown by the peoples of Viet Nam, Lao and Cambodia for a peaceful solution of their problems on the basis of respect for their fundamental national rights. We, therefore, fully approve and support their just position for a correct, reasonable and realistic settlement of the problems of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

The appeal declared full support to the RSVN PRG 7-point programme, the 5-point solution of the Lao Patriotic Front on March 6, 1970, and the 5-point Proclamation of March 23, 1970 by Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, and the Political Programme of the National United Front of Kampuchea.

It stressed:

"It is the most urgent and primary international duty for the democratic, peace forces in the whole world to condemn Nixon's crime of aggression and war crimes, and step up our support to, and solidarity with the peoples of Indochina.

"Justice is on the side of the three peoples in Indochina. Their fight is our own. Their victory is our own."

The conference appeals to all anti-imperialist, peace and democratic forces for action, international and national, according to their respective conditions and upon their creativeness to strengthen their political and material support to, and solidarity with, the peoples of Indochina.

(Continued)

in the shadow of the american embassy in Saigon

5. THE PIMP MAYOR

THE Saigon regime which nestles in the shadow of the American Embassy is worthily represented not only by the Lam Son theatrical troupe but also by the 39,372 officially registered prostitutes aged 16-45. Indeed the professional whores number more than 70,000. If one adds to them the semi-pros—most of them masquerading as "waitresses" in the more than 300 "snack-bars" — the figure will surpass the 200,000 mark! A thriving industry of the regime! A figure all the more eloquent if one recalls that the total number of college and school teachers, medical doctors, engineers and pharmacists in Saigon is less than one-tenth of it.

US culture has also brought Saigon more than one hundred Turkish baths, to which Formosan culture has contributed 370 young women specializing in "scientific" massage. Along Nguyen Van Thoai and Vo Tanh streets as well as Tran Hung Dao and Tran Quoc Toan boulevards there have mushroomed motley signboards carrying suggestive drawings and inscriptions in English advertising steam-baths and cabarets with such names as "Lovely Bath," "Queen Bar," "Moon Bar," etc.

The army of harlots is the product of the war imposed by foreigners. Its numbers have skyrocketed since 1965-66. Following each "sweep," each plan for setting up "strategic hamlets," each operation for "special pacification," "accelerated pacification" or "complementary pacification," each displacement of civilians, each spraying of toxic chemicals, population figures in the towns and cities would shoot up. Carrying their belongings on their backs, the refugees would stream on foot, or in crowded buses and sampans, into the towns, where, failing assistance from relatives or friends, they would pitch camps on sidewalks, waterfronts or in bus stations and public squares. The girls would fall preys to pimps and brothel-owners, who would give them some money for cosmetics and dresses and entertain them with special films and novels aimed at arousing base passions and desires. Country girls with pure hearts and simple minds would soon be acquainted with lewd scenes on the streets of Saigon and pressed by material enticements and soaring prices into selling their bodies. A lawyer with some concern for social morals has observed: "In this city of Saigon teeming with Americans, the fact that the men have become cannon-fodder and the girls have been compelled to offer the use of their bodies in order to eke out a living, is only a matter of course."

But the leaders of the regime look at things from a quite different angle. Minister for Social Affairs Tran Ngoc Lien has gleefully declared: "In this country, prostitution has developed into one of the best - organized trades ever!" A representative blurted out in the Lower House of "Parliament": "The Americans need girls; we need dollars. Why should we refrain from the exchange? It's an inexhaustible source of US dollars for the State." And so important personages have set up big organizations dealing in human flesh covering whole districts and ranging from cheap brothels to the supply of deluxe courtesans of various nationalities — Vietnamese, Japanese, Thai, Formosan — to wealthy customers: American ambassadors and deputy ambassadors, CIA chieftains, as well as Saigon presidents, vice presidents and Cabinet ministers.

In the 1969-70, Saigon was shaken by anguishing news: girls of 13 or 14 were kidnapped and taken to sinister dens. So-called Okinawa V.D. microbes, resistant to ordinary anti-biotics, were on the rampage after being introduced into the country by American soldiery. The city was rife with all sorts of rumours about the wives of such and such Saigon civil servants, officers, professors or representatives catering for the lusts of the Americans and being paid by the day or by the hour. Unbelievable things happened: mothers and sons, brothers and sisters ran into each other in brothels!

Who stands at the top of this prosperous and shameful industry? The Saigonese have come to know the answer to this intriguing question: he is none other than the Mayor of their city, Do Kien Nhieu.

Nhieu is a native of Long An province. In French times, he was a constable and later became a corporal in the native auxiliary troops. He was known as a drunkard and a debauchee. Under Diem, he made a profitable career for himself by "exterminating Communists" and massacring innocent people. Later he was promoted chief of Long Xuyen then An Giang provinces. When Diem and his brother Nhu were made away with through CIA machinations, Nhieu bitterly grieved at the bad news. In June 1968, Thieu appointed Nhieu Mayor in replacement of Van Van Cua and promoted him to be a full colonel. He is Thieu's right-hand man and reigns despotically over the 160 square kilometres of the city's area. All the pimps and brothel-owners of the eleven city districts have been put under the unified control of his own aunt and elder sister. Other relatives of his have been entrusted with other busines ses in human flesh. For instance providing "wives" to GIs, transfering "wives" from departing GIs to newly-arrived ones, supplying women seduced by American officers with marriage certificates and helping them acquire American citizenships, etc.

Nhieu also holds indirect sway over such "cultural activities as cabaret singing, strip-tease dancing, at such "cultural centres" as Kilby Dance Hall in Nguyen Hue boulevard, Ritz Restaurant on Tran Hung Dao street, Maxim's Theatre in Tu Do avenue, or Melody Dance Hall in Cho Lon. The owners of these profitable businesses have to pay him fat kickbacks.

With Hoang Thi Tho, who has brought the "art" of presenting decadent, psywar-oriented music and singing to the level of a profitable industry responsible for the moral ruin of a whole generation of city youth, Nhieu entertains special relationship, that between two professional panders.

Owing to the Mayor's solicitude and the effective assistance of American advisers, Saigon has witnessed the coming into existence of a host of strange characters calling themselves "local hippies" and numbering over 10,000 early this year. They are playing a very efficient role in diffusing the "culture" of the "free world" in this enslaved part of our country.

Most of them are children of VIPs — ministers or generals... — or wealthy families who by fits grow tired of life only to become crazily pleasure-seeking at the next moment. The boys grow long hair while the girls wear it very short; both sexes wear drain-pipe trousers and gaudy shirts, make love in the streets, quarrel noisily in public, dash along crowded streets on their Honda or Yamaha motorbikes at breakneck speed, linger in cabarets and nightclubs where they perform wailing and syncopated outlandish music, are inveterate marijuana and heroin addicts, and indulge in looting and riots. They set up gangs carrying such evocative names as "Dust of Life," "Black Star," "Bloody Hand," "Human Skull," etc. Indeed they greatly contribute to the moral pollution of the already heavily-polluted atmosphere of Saigon.

Recently, owing to the departure of sizeable numbers of GIs, the prostitution industry has been on the downgrade. The massage parlors and opium dens are facing a dwindling clientele. Nevertheless, Do Kien Nhieu, the Mayor, after four years in business, has amassed a great fortune. Once during a drinking bout, he noisily boasted: "I am richer than any brigadier or major general in this country! I am a millionaire in... US dollars!" As a matter of facts, Nhieu holds fat accounts in Hong Kong banks. He has readjusted his business activities to fit new nine urgent economic measures decreed by Thieu. Score of new taxes have been promulgated aimed at sucking dry the cityfolk.

Do Kien Nhieu, a major public figure in Saigon, is also a typical representative of the Thieu regime. This pander-cum-black marketeer is still doing a thriving business. He will no doubt be promoted general by his "President" very soon. But together with the latter, he is heading for inevitable ruin.

(to be continued)

THANH NAM

An impudent challenge to international law

IF the Republican electoral platform and Nixon's acceptance speech of August 23 needed clarifications, these were abundantly supplied by the US President's and Melvin Laird's statements separated only by one day.

On August 28, Laird announced that US military activities in Viet Nam would continue until the adversary accepted to revert to the 1968 tacit understanding or to the Geneva agreements or a negotiated settlement had been arrived at. By tacit understanding and Geneva Agreements, as construed by the Republican Administration, the Defense Secretary apparently meant that the PLAF should regroup north of the 17th parallel while the USAF would be free to reconnoitre at discretion North Viet Nam's airspace!

The next day, Mr Nixon added that it was completely out of question that the bombing of North Viet Nam and the mining of its waters should be stopped or reduced between now and November 7, 1972. Unlike the Democrats, Nixon does not intend to resort to electoral duping. As for the total withdrawal of US forces, he would be prepared to operate it but on the conditions laid down last March 8. One of them concerned the US POWs and other Americans reported missing. As long as there remains an American POW in North Viet Nam and no news is supplied about any missing American, a force of "volunteers" will stay in Viet Nam, he added.

Comparing both men's words which complement one another's, one finds in them a real ultimatum which compounds the May 8 terms. They emphatically require a thinly veiled capitulation of the Vietnamese resistance forces, in response to the, utterly sensible proposal of the PRG of the RSVN consisting of seven points, two of which of a fundamental character have been elaborated on.

It is a true and insolent challenge not only to the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights but also to international law whose basic principles have, in virtue of the 1787 US Constitution, become "the supreme law of the land."

In fact, Mr Nixon has no right whatsoever to bomb any place of the territory, still less to mine the territorial waters, of Viet Nam, a sovereign socialist state. What he has been doing and has promised to continue until November 7 is nothing short of the crime of aggression, supreme international crime, all the more condemnable as it is committed against an industrially underdeveloped country and with a view to depriving it of its national rights, of its independence and freedom.

Laird's so-called juridical argument boomerangs on himself and his president, for there has never existed a tacit accord in 1968 authorizing US aircraft's flights over North Viet Nam but instead a public official undertaking to unconditionally halt all air and artillery bombings of North Viet Nam resulting from a formal declaration by Lindon B. Johnson on the TV on the evening of October 31, 1968.

The 1954 Geneva Agreements' fundamental provision recognized Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and prohibited foreign intervention in its internal affairs. This stipulation and other important clauses of the said accords have been outrageously and systematically violated by the USA from the day after their signing up to now. US policy of aggression has placed the South Vietnamese and the entire Vietnamese people in a position of legitimate self-defence and formed the legal basis of the Vietnamese armed resistance which eventually led to the formation of the NFL and the PRG of the RSVN recognized de jure by more than 20 governments of countries with different social systems and de facto by the US Administration through its acceptance to sit at the Paris Conference table with a delegation of the PRG.

As early as 2000 years ago, Roman law stipulated: *nemo auditur propriam turpitudinem allegans.* As an arrogant breaker of the Geneva Agreements, can the US call for a return to a transitory provision of the said accords on the regrouping of the forces of the Vietnamese People's Army and of those of the French Union (i.e. the French Expeditionary Corps and its native mercenaries) on both sides of the 17th parallel, in order to salvage the delinquescent regime of the neo-colonialist henchman Nguyen Van Thieu?

The challenge has been thrown to the whole American people too, for it is the first time that a presidential candidate runs on a war ticket: the war against the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples and also against the US labouring masses, coloured minorities, students and youths.

Nixon, this unlicensed lawyer — one has to call a spade a spade — shows utter disregard for the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the UN Charter, the US General Assembly's 1960 and 1965 resolutions on the colonial peoples' right to independence and self-determination, and universally recognized principles of the Nuremberg and Tokyo and of the US constitutional law.

Hitler invoked his "race" 's superior right whereas France's Louis the Fourteenth made no difference between the state and himself. Mr Nixon whom US humourists dubbed "Richard I Regius" after the August Republican Convention, apparently wanted to take a leaf from both tyrants' books disdainfully rejected an equal-to-equal public debate on the TV with Mc Govern.

It remains to be seen whether the US voters will be impressed by his braggadocio into casting their ballots for the war program of the führer-king and not for the peace and economic and social rehabilitation platform of the Democratic Convention.

Anyway, the Vietnamese people will not let their fate be swayed by the hazards of a US election. We are aware that each people's lot is to be decided by themselves and in a confrontation with the imperialist aggressor, there is no other course of action than combat, backed by political and diplomatic actions, until total victory. As President Ho Chi Minh has recommended, we must fight on until the Yanks quit and the quislings topple.

The US President has announced another cutback — a fresh fraud — of 12,500 GI's to be completed from now to December 1, 1972, but continues US build-up US bases surrounding Viet Nam and Indochina and that floating base of the 7th Fleet. He has made it amply clear that he will neither leave our country nor dump the Thieu gang.

THE South Vietnamese patriots' most pressing task is thus to impel their effort until their set purposes are attained. With the fraternal assistance of the North, the militant solidarity of the Indochinese peoples and the disinterested aid of our friends in the five continents, we shall surely win. We highly value the American progressives' contribution. We are convinced that as vouched by the American people's behaviour during the two centuries of their existence as a nation, a bloody civil war and two world conflicts, they will always remain true to their ideals of freedom and democracy and give a relevant response to the challenge of Nixon and Company.

Xuan Khanh

Here and there...

Smart children

Recently, thousands of children from 42 countries gathered in summer camps in GDR, USSR and Poland organized meetings or various actions (money collections, theatrical performances, sales of things of their own making...) for the benefit of Viet Nam.

Others in their numbers, following in their parents', sisters' or brothers' footsteps took to the streets in Swede, England... and displayed banners with such slogans as: "Nixon, how many children have you killed in Viet Nam?", "Nixon, stop infanticides in Viet Nam!"

So the man who spoke with tears in his voice of the diary of poor little Tania of Leningrad, martyrized by Hitler had not been able to fool those children. Weren't they a bit too smart for the US President?

Maybe he is too busy turning out more "smart" bombs to be concerned with fostering American kids in the image of those smart children, as Mc Govern would like him to.

A grown-up lost to all sense of shame

What does Thieu think of such children? Sorry, the word "think" is not relevant when one refers to Mr Nixon's number one flunkey, because the latter seems to be incapable of thinking for himself. How can he understand the thinking of those non-Vietnamese children when he has gone to the length of imploring his master to go on bombing the Northern half of his fatherland until it is reduced to rubble. Sorry again for this *lapsus linguae*. Traitors have no fatherland.

True, when one speaks of such people, it is hard to use terms and phrases usually applicable to men in general without committing some impropriety.

L'Humanité of August 2, 1972 got into the same kind of trouble when comparing Thieu to Doriot who, for all his stupidity, had not been shameless enough to request his "allies" to erase Paris. So it only commented that the former traitor's shamelessness outdid shame itself.

HUONG NAM

More harassment on communication lines

SINCE April, in combination with onslaughts on strategic bases and positions, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have been striking at important military land and river communications.

Braving fierce bombings and shellings, holding on to their positions, and using imaginative combat methods, the patriots have successfully confronted the enemy's air force, armour and artillery, wiped out a sizeable part of his manpower, and sealed off his land and river supply routes. They now ambush convoys, now attack by surprise and erase communications-guarding garrisons, now intercept detachments coming to their rescue.

On Route 9 in Quang Tri, Route 12 to the west of Hue, Routes 1, 14, 19 and 21 in Central Trung Bo, Route 22 and 13 in Eastern Nam Bo, and Route 4 in the Mekong Delta, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have mounted powerful raids, destroying bridges, stopping short supply convoys, and simultaneously attacking depots and rear bases. In Central Trung Bo they have won control over the road linking Duc Pho to Sa Huynh and about 8 miles north of the district towns of Mo Duc, Son Tinh and Binh Son. Portions 18 to 25 miles long like the ones between De Duc and Nhong Pass, between De Duc and Tam Quan, have also been cut off by regional troops of Binh Dinh.

In Quang Tri where the adversary is in urgent need of supplies, he has to rely on helicopters and air cargoes for more manpower and provisions. The liberation troops acting in coordination with the population have put up a dense air-defence network, and made deep thrusts into airfields and military ports such as Cua Viet, Nuoc Man, Da Nang, Cam Ranh. An attack on the big US dump at Cam Ranh resulted in the knocking out of a Saigon ranger battalion; an onslaught against Ao Ho wiped out 300 GIs; a coup against Da Nang and Nuoc Man airfields ended with the destruction of 73 helicopters and planes of various kinds; and an assault on the military ports of Da Nang and Qui Nhon set afire or sent to the bottom two 5,000-ton tankers and one 10,000-ton ammunition carrier.

On Routes 14, 18 and 19, the Liberation armed forces repeatedly intercepted armoured vehicles and assailed garrisons, halting supplies to Kontum, once for over two months. All enemy troops stationed north of the Western Highlands have had to be supplied by choppers from day to day. Most remarkable have been the activities of the Highlands PLAF on Route 14, who put out of commission more than 170 military vehicles on March 26 and 28, and on April 2, 10 and 11. On these days they destroyed a big bridge north of Pleiku, and foiled several operations by Saigon paratroops in Chu Thoi area and at Ninh Duc Crossroad. Nearly one half of the 1,000 Saigon and American vehicles destroyed or damaged in the Highlands over the past four months, came under fire on Routes 14, 18 and 19.

At present, the enemy flies at least 100 sorties a day in a vain attempt to drive the PLAF away from their bolts on Route 14. Route 19, the main one used to rush supplies to the Highlands, is under constant attack and severed again and again. The portion linking Thuong Giang to strategic An Khe is defended by a regiment of Pak Jung Hee troops and a number of Saigon battalions, who have already suffered 750 casualties. All of the companies of Regiment of the former's Tiger Division have sustained losses at the hands of Binh Dinh liberation forces.

In Eastern Nam Bo, devastating communication battles have been fought by the PLAF and people of Tay Ninh, Binh Long and Phuoc Long. Here the US-Saigon command have been trying to keep traffic rolling at any cost on strategic Routes 13 and 22 north of Saigon. After Task Forces 9 and 52 has been knocked out and Armoured Regiment 1 written off, they hurriedly moved Airborne Brigade 1 to Route 13 (April 7). Engaged in fierce fighting, the unit fled toward Chon Thanh. Then the US-Saigon Commiand resorted to the leap-frog tactics to land troops on Nui Gio, southeast of Hon Quan. No sooner had the latter touched down than Binh Long PLAF made short work of the CP of Brigade 1 and Division 21 was rushed to the rescue of the besieged troops between An Loc and Chon Thanh.

In 20 days beginning April 15, Division 1 lost 1,500 men and 100 vehicles. Then, in one week beginning April 25, Airborne Brigade 3, sent in from the Highlands took 500 casualties — 3 airborne companies and a gunner company — in the Tau O-Xe Trach area.

In all, almost two divisions of regular troops were committed to clearing the section of Route 13 from Chon Thanh to Hon Quan. Casualties were so high that the enemy himself describes this road as one of "blood and tears."

In coordination with their activities against ground and air forces, Liberation troops mounted successful battles on waterways and on military ports, with the blocking of a substantial part of supplies by land and air, maintaining traffic open on waterways assumes paramount importance, especially in Nam Bo possessed of a dense river network. Together with regulars and regionals, guerillas have been doing their best to turn every river, brook and canal section into a devastating battlefield for the enemy.

Whole convoys were sunk at Cua Viet, Cam Ranh, Quy Nhon and Da Nang bays, on the Nguyen Van Tiep and Duong Van Duong canals, in the Mekong Delta, and on the River Doc at the tip of Ca Mau.

Most dramatic were the battles in the entangled water network of Nam Bo where the enemy boasts to have erected "river bases" and used the so-called river-fleet tactics for the pacification of the Mekong delta. With imaginative tactical methods the liberation forces sank nearly 100 ships, thus frustrating many pacification operations. In one week starting from May 9, regionals and guerillas of Go Quao district, Rach Gia province, damaged or sent to the bottom of Cai Lon river 13 military cargoes. On May 25 alone, those of My Tho damaged 6 out of 10 of a convoy on Canal 28. In Ca Mau province, by the same time, the PLAF ambushed River Brigade 73, sinking or setting ablaze to ships, and putting out of action about 100 of their crewmen.

As the adversary is dispersing his forces to cope with the liberation troops' actions on various fronts and as his supplying and rescuing operations have become vital, the strikes of the PLAF at communication lines have made it possible for them to destroy more and more of adverse manpower.

No enemy military convoy is immune from PLAF fire

Our great rear

A clever and courageous lorry driver

THAT night, Ta Hong Cam, from Transport Enterprise No 8, was driving his lorry when he met a front-bound army convoy. The latter had been spotted by flare-throwing enemy planes. Unhesitatingly, Ta Hong Cam turned about and ran on with all his headlights on. Three "Thunderchiefs" roared after him—their new target—,dropping bombs and firing rockets. The army convoy rushed out of the flares' range. As for him, Ta Hong Cam zigzagged his vehicle safely back to his starting point.

A valiant driver with 27 wounds

Taking advantage of the foggy weather to get through one more truckload of goods, Nguyen Trong Thao was caught in a bombing by cordinate-reading. He was hurled out of his car hundreds metres away. When he came to, Thao realized that he had been wounded and lost 3 fingers and his legs were nearly crippled. He could hardly move his body (later in the hospital, he was told he had gotten 27 wounds). The first thing he did was to look for the truck. He did his best to crawl toward the road surface. Seeing that all the four wheels of his vehicles were still intact, Thao was filled with joy. He laboured into his cabin, after slipping out and falling three or four times. He started the engine and the vehicle slowly moved forward. He felt at peace. Now he had to fetch the addressee of the cargo who was travelling with him. Getting out the cabin was no less hard than to get into it. The man he was looking for was also wounded to incapacity. Thao helped him out of the danger spot. After reaching the road surface, Thao bent down, then used all his strength to push him up. After the exertion, Thao fainted. As he recovered his senses, he remembered he should get onboard too. So he tried 8 times again before he succeded floundering. Exhausted, he leaned his head on the handwheel.

"Well! Let's start," he said to himself. With his eyes fixed on the road, and driving his truck with only one hand, Thao groped his way in the fog until daybreak. Arrived at destination, he gave a loud shout, then again lost consciousness. With 27 wounds on his body, Nguyen Trong Thao duly delivered his freight to the appointed place.

Signalmen go into action to contribute their part to the successs of the Quang Tri PLAF

Quang Tri

Sixty days and nights of furious and successful resistance

(Continued from page 1)

Quang Tri has been extended over and over again, and in spite of the 44 million-piastre reward, the hoisting of the Saigon striped flag over the ancient citadel remains a dream of the American aggressors and their lackeys. Neither has US firepower been able to ward off Liberation forces' hard blows from Saigon troops. Let alone the fact, of course, that the US Air Force itself has incurred heavy losses: over 120 planes of the most sophisticated designs (including RF-4C electronic reconnaissance planes) downed or destroyed.

That highly significant achievement of the armed forces and people of Quang Tri has posed to Nixon and his confederates these agonizing questions:

1 — Incapable of turning the tide on the narrow front of Quang Tri, how can possibly the US Air Force and Navy generate a "sudden change," then "halt, and turn the tables on, the opponent" throughout the South Viet Nam theatre?

2 — After the withdrawal of US ground troops, and in face of the impotence of the US Air Force and Navy, on what force will Nixon rely to prolong his Vietnamized war?

Saigon crack troops heavily battered

In over two months of tough fighting, nearly 17,000 Saigon air-borne troops and marines were knocked out, or, in terms of the Saigon army set-up, more than a full division or half of the troops fielded in Quang Tri.

What is equally remarkable, those two elite divisions complete with artillery and armour, commanded by American "advisers" down to the battalion level, and supported by US maximal fire-power, have not proved equal to their task as the main spearhead. From June 28 to July 27 the Airborne Division was heavily trounced. Division 2 was so exhausted that it has to quit. Since July 27 the "Sea Tigers" Division which has replaced the Airborne Division has not fared any better and lost one-third of its strength (*UPI*, August 14).

Both divisions have been organizationally disrupted. Despite on the field replenishment, the losses have not been made good. Combat weariness has been rampant. The deployment of the Airborne and Marine Divisions which belong to the general strategic reserve forces has turned out to be a big blunder.

At a time when the offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are coming to a head on all fronts, the heavy losses sustained by Saigon general strategic reserve forces cannot but worsen the enemy's confusion and quandary. Will he go on keeping his two most seasoned divisions in the Quang Tri area only to sustain more devastating panches, or as suggested by *AP* (August 28), pull them out to guard exposed areas in the rear after the Que Son (Quang Nam) disaster?

Resourcefulness and military skill of the Quang Tri armed forces and people

In over two months of confrontation with the strongest forces of the US and Saigon regime, regulars, regionals and guerillas of Quang Tri have shown unmatched revolutionary heroism, sense of purpose, and highly destructive combat skill.

Infantrymen now hold on to their positions under showers of bombs and shells, now launch sweeping attacks, now flank and hit their opponent from the rear. Artillerymen round the clock pour a deluge of fire and check every adverse attempt to come near the citadel. A.A.C.gunners blaze away at jets, sometimes grounding a dozen in a day. Tank troops, turning up at the most unexpected moment and making daring thrusts, sow pandemonium in enemy ranks. Regionals and guerillas, sticking to the enemy like his shadow, strike at him in every ricefield or village lane.

With incredible courage, logistical units, defying bombs and rockets, bring ammunition, rice, even fresh fruit and vegetables to liberation men in the firing lines. Countless feats of the population of Quang Tri have contributed to the successes of the armed forces from Trieu Phong and Hai Lang to Gio Linh and Cam Lo. The invincible strength of the people's war and the military skill of the liberation army have been made the most of.

The badly mauled US-Saigon rule has not reconciled itself with defeat. But the Quang Tri peoples and fighters' gains will be followed up until Operation Lam Son 72 is completely frustrated.

GENOCIDE & ECOCIDE

(Concluded)

III — ASIA'S HOLLAND

FOR more than twenty centuries, Viet Nam has been endeavouring to gain new lands from the sea and to harness the Red River, well before a similar undertaking had begun in Holland, Europe, where it rightly has elicited universal admiration.

The very configuration of Co Loa, the ancient capital of the independent Kingdom of Au Lac (3rd century B.C.), bears out a deep sense of the use of waters. As early as the 1st century B.C., it has been established through the *Giao Chau Ky* annals, there already existed an anti-flood dyke and many canals in the vicinity of Hanoi. Between the first and the sixth centuries, Giao Chi (one of North Viet Nam's old names) was known in Asia for its two annual rice harvests, which requires a real mastery of the water irrigation technique.

Frailty of the rice

Other dykes were erected and new canals dug in the 9th century. Such works were continued in the following centuries (the Co Xa dyke in Hanoi dated from the year 1108) to form an already complex network. Administrative functions were created under the Tran (13th century) for dyke protection, especially during the spate-seasons, when the whole population was mobilized. In spite of such measures periodical catastrophes occurred quite regularly.

On several occasions in the 19th century, the emperors even held public debates on the question of keeping or not keeping the dykes, and on each occasion the conclusion was affirmative. Rice perishes after being submerged for four days. An annual regular flood is equivalent to the loss of the whole second crop and the ruin of the country.

Sophisticated systems of sluice-gates

Thus through centuries, North Viet Nam has gradually encroached upon the sea. Dykes hem in river beds: new defluents are cut to reduce the flow in time of spates. All along the sea coast, even before sand-hills have time to shape, the population erects earth-banks against the sea, eliminates the salinity of soil by fresh water irrigation, and warps the soil with new "squares." Masoned inverts and sluices built in some places under dykes, make irrigation possible outside swellings, since two calamities take turns in ravaging the country: waterlogging in the rainy season, and drought in winter. An author of the colonial epoch, Y.B. Alberti, had this to say about the Vietnamese in the delta: "From daily contacts with natural phenomena, they step by step acquired a perfect knowledge of the water distribution. This explained the value of their canals and their sophisticated systems of sluice-gates. Their hydraulic science enabled them to arrange alluvial grounds gained by the Red River from the sea" (3).

1945: Two million dead

Nevertheless it was not until 1954 that the scourge of floods was brought under control. Dyke breaches which were increased in the 19th century with the decline of the monarchic regime continued to occur during the whole colonial period. For decades, the Administration was first of all concerned with protecting the residential quarters of Hanoi by inundating certain sectors located upstream to reduce the flow of the river. It was only since 1924 and 1927 that this policy had been scrapped when "the failure of the system of submersion in 1924 evidenced that only a coherent network of dykes would bring security (4). The works of the hydraulic service built since that date could not prevent new breaches, especially in Aug.-Sept. 1944 when the "major part of the sea dykes were either submerged or broken." (5) A catastrophe which was at the origin of the frightening 1945 famine (a 2 million death toll). "From 1927 to 1945, in spite of the new dyke plan, dykes collapsed six more times — in 1930, 1936, 1937, 1941, 1942 and 1945. The most terrific were the floods in 1937 and 1945. That of 1937 hit 7 provinces. In 1945, 950,000 ha in 9 provinces were under water." (6)

Major water conservancy works in the DRVN

US official spokesmen are trying to create the impression of a "certain neglect" in the maintenance of dykes in North Viet Nam. We need not dwell on the hardly conceivable hypocrisy of such statements, and only mention some elementary data.

From 1954 to 1971, the Red River delta was immune to inundation, except a local breach in 1955 and the 1971 floods, at the right moment when the meteorological strategy of the Pentagon was under preparation and after several years of bombing under Johnson that also hit protective works (1,300 raids in 1967) (7).

As early as in 1954, the DRVN began rebuild all the hydraulic networks of the colonial era which the French air force had systematically destroyed as from 1947. For the first time a both short-term and long-range comprehensive policy was adopted. It simultaneously consisted of the strengthening of dykes, the dredging of silted-up river mouths and sections, the creation of new irrigation networks (with a view to bringing the number of harvests to three per year), and in the long run the setting up of dams on the higher bed of the river and its affluents with a view to controlling spates through reservoirs, and to turning out electric energy. Big works were undertaken by the State, while provinces, communes and cooperatives took charge of local ramification. In a short time, structures were completed which were unmatched by what had been done up to that date. "In 17 years of people's power (8 of which were war years) the volume of earth removed for dykes strengthening was superior to that in 61 years of colonial rule; 103,9 million cubic metres from 1946 to 1954, that is an annual average of 1.7 million in the colonial period, and 5.7 million under people's power (10 million if only peace years were taken into account). In a few years, a whole series of new works allows the irrigation of more than 700,000 ha. A first dam was built on an affluent of the Lo (the Clear River) at Thac Ba. Others on the Lo and Da rivers are under study. A hydraulics and hydro-energy institute created in 1959 was subdivided in 1962 into three sub-sections.

Bombs dropped where a rat can do the job

One can never overemphasize the frailty of earth dykes (8) face to a river whose flow reaches 30,000 m3 in time of spates. "Everyone knows that a dyke must be constantly checked and well-kept. Huge rats often dig their holes and big roots decay there, and so infiltrating routes are cut for water to come in, which causes disintegration and collapse of the soil, and as a result, under pressure from spates, the dykes will yield" (9). "Earth dykes are extremely vulnerable to erosion. The current runs from one riverside to another, violently attacks certain points (thus there has been observed at Vu Dien, Ha Nam province, a 27-yard-deep hole under the river's water level, which at that place is less than 6 feet above sea level). So much so that the river may carry away dykes at certain points where its action has already been prepared by infiltrations that have turned the earth into a thick paste." (10)

In his study on "The Tonkin Dykes" (1930) French engineer J. Gauthier deals at length with the ways water seeps through earth-banks. Infiltrations may occur either by imbibition, through the crumbling of the external embankment, the action of rotten roots, holes of rodents, reptiles, termites, or else from the insufficient resistance of works built under the dyke, which works may give way under pressure from the earth borne by them, if their foundations and dimensions had been inadequately established. A tiny crevice may create a crack through which will creep in a thin trickle of water, "particularly serious accidents, since they may happen all of a sudden, without having been uncovered by previous spates" (p.55). Defects of the ground plan (especially as a result of a too speedy warping) may also give rise to a sudden collapse.

To give currency to the idea that "floods may occur for reasons having no relation with the bombing," on July 6 a State Department spokesman quoted an article recently published in Hanoi where all those classical problems of dykes were raised.

It is difficult to show a more cynical disregard for public opinion. If a rat hole is enough to provoke a catastrophe, what would happen if the dyke is cut by craters big enough to hold two lorries? (*AFP*, July 3, 1972).

Hanoi press articles that mention all those latent classical dangers prove, in reality, the reverse of the notion the Nixon administration wants to spread. Far from neglecting her dykes — as alleged by Washington — the DRVN is carefully attending to them just as she has been doing, gaping breaches generated by bombs do not prevent her from paying attention to permanent minor dangers which are always there and may be increased as a result of the shaking effect of bombs.

It is indeed not necessary for the bombs to hit directly the earth banks at the right time of spates to cause it to crumble. It is enough to shake it a long time in advance. The shock wave of a bomb dropped even far away can give rise to numerous invisible cracks at the most vulnerable points, which can pass unnoticed until spates come. Leakages and imbibition, if not discovered in time, can provoke a sudden crumbling of the whole construction which will literally glide on a muddy bed.

Washington will talk of "natural" accidents whereas the problem is that of a characterized ecocide, and the systematic destruction of an environment created by the more than millenary interaction between man and his surroundings.

"In the course of millenary exertions," writes P. Gourou, "the peasant has built up this considerable network; he has kneaded the soil with his own hands, he has shaped the relief of the land as we see it today, he has rendered productive a territory which, if left to itself, would only be a marshland. As it is now, the delta is the work of man." (12)

This fragile balance, this landscape moulded by generations and generations of Vietnamese, is today the number one target of the USAF, US artificial rains and bombs.

Are acid rains selective?

In an interview, an American colonel imparted to Seymour Hersh this falsely candid thought of his: "Which is worse, bombs or rain?"

But there is rain and rain. The same military revealed that such atmospheric precipitations had a degree of acidity which could confuse and jam radars that guide Vietnamese A.A.C. missiles.

Has this rain a miraculous selective power which spares crops, cattle and men?

One has the right to ask this question when farther, in the same article, it is learned, through the statement of an American official, that this rain puts out of order not only radars, but also such sturdy equipment as trucks and tanks.

While in the United States DDT is rightly prohibited, in Viet Nam the USAF is pouring acid products whose nature is not specified but which can damage war materials.

In the long run, what may be the consequences of such deeds?

IV — CRIMES AGAINST MANKIND

Return to stone age by gullying and laterization

Tropical soils are not rich as a rather widespread opinion has it. The exuberant vegetation should not create illusions. "Tropical soils," writes P. Gourou, "are poorer and more fragile than soils in temperate regions. Their exploitation requires great care if one is to avoid their impoverishment and destruction" (12). Poor in assimilable bases and phosphorous, they are acid. And now on them the Pentagon is pouring acid rains. The lack of fertility in lands in hot countries precisely originates from infiltrating waters which, by "washing" away bases and nitrates, provoke a more violet erosion than in temperate climate, owing to the fierceness of storms and a phenomenon peculiar to hot and rainy countries : laterization. The wash of water in mountains brings about the exhaustion of soils and gullying that literally lacerates slopy grounds.

An irrational use of land is enough to generate "laterite, a pedological leprosy existing only in hot and rainy climate," when the soil is sufficiently deprived of the bases that previously prevented its formation. A laterized soil becomes perfectly waterproof. Harder than many kinds of rocks, it can tolerate no vegetation and no improvement.

In many regions in Indochina, defoliation adds to damage inflicted by artificially provoked torrential rains and bombardments. (Let alone South Vietnamese areas where American forces ploughed up the soil with bulldozers to remove all vegetation.) When one bears in mind that a handicraft-type farming activity of man suffices to turn certain tropical areas into deserts, one realizes that Nixon is now translating into deeds this raving prophecy of General Curtis Le May in 1965 about bombing Viet Nam back to the stone age. Right now, whole hilly sectors of Viet Nam and Laos look like lunar landscapes.

The Nuremberg Tribunal

"If certain acts and certain violations of agreements are crimes, they are so, no matter they were committed by the United States or Germany," declared US Attorney-General Jackson before the Nuremberg Tribunal. "We are not disposed to establish against other people a rule of criminal behaviour which we would not be disposed to see invoked against us."

The Nuremberg Tribunal defined as "crimes against humanity" "any iuhuman act committed against any civilian populations, before or during the war." The 1948 Convention condemned "serious attempts on physical or mental integrity of the group," "intentional submission of the group to conditions of living which will entail its total or partial physical destruction," crimes which constitute genocide.

Nixon's geophysical war against the Indochinese peoples is liable to these accusations.

BUI DUC LIEN

(3) *JB Alberti*, l'Indochine française, *p.* 256.

(4) *Article by Axelrad.* Indochine, Sud-est Asiatique, *No.*4, 1952,

(5) *J.S.* La Famine de 1945 au Tonkin, Sud-est Asiatique, *No.* 6, *Novembre* 1949.

(6) *Tran Dang Khoa :* Water Conservancy Problems in North Viet Nam, Vietnamese Studies No. 2.

(7) *See* 'L'attaque des digues et barrages de la RDVN par l'aviation américaine', *Hanoi* 1968, *p.*31, *Foreign Languages Editions.*

(8) *See* Vietnamese Studies *No.* 2 : *important studies on hydraulics.*

(9) *Axelrad*, Sud-est Asiatique, 4-1949.

(10) *A. Pouyanne :* Les travaux publics de l'Indochine, 1926, *pp.* 72-73.

(11) *P. Gourou :* Le paysan du delta tonkinois, 1936, *pp.* 63.

(12) Les pays tropicaux, 1947, *p.*15.

o Sri Lanka :

The August 9 meeting of over 2,000 students and professors in Colombo adopted a resolution demanding that Nixon put an end to the bombing of dykes, and blockade of ports, in North Viet Nam, withdraw all US troops and war materials from Viet Nam, stop backing the Nguyen Van Thieu quisling administration and accept the RSVN PRG 7-point solution.

The National Students' Union also held a three-day exhibition on Viet Nam which drew thousands of visitors.

At a get-together between 150 Sri Lanka professors and Vietnamese representatives in the country, Professor Gudawardena described Vietnamese revolutionary heroism as a hope and inspiration for the Sri Lanka people. The Sri Lanka intellectual and student circles, he pledged, will do everything in their power to contribute to supporting effectively the Vietnamese people's anti-US for national salvation fight till victory.

o Japan :

The movement against US use of Japan as springboard for its criminal war in Viet Nam and Indochina has been gaining in intensity and magnitude throughout the country.

On August 11, some 300 Japanese paraded in front of the US base in Sagamihara, blocking a convoy of Viet Nam-bound tanks for the US aggressors. The Japanese authorities called in police to clear the way but Japanese progressive youths took turns in picketing round the clock the base for prompt mobilization of the nearby population to join in the protest action. As a result, the Nihon Tsuma Truck Company had to cancel the contract signed with the transport of US military vehicles in this region. The US officials eventually had to ask for the Japanese Railway Company's help, but the latter's workers and employees trade union threatened to strike if the company cooperated with the Americans.

The Yokosuka Municipal Council also called an emergency meeting to pass a decision against the US undertaking.

According to *UPI*, the US marines' landing exercise in Imazawa scheduled for August 15 had to be postponed for lack of tanks.

o Holland :

The Holland Support Viet Nam Movement involving 15 political, religious, trade union and social organizations has published a pamphlet including a number of articles by Dutch and many other Western pressmen denouncing US airstrikes of North Viet Nam dykes and a number of photos showing dyke portions hit by US bombs.

The same Movement plans to initiate a "Week of Solidarity with Viet Nam" in the near future.

o Great Britain :

On August 9 — opening day of the 17th week of the British people's stand-in — the paraders representing the Society of Friends of Peace and International Relations Committee and Friends of China and South-East Asia Committee sent a deputation to hand to the US consulate a petition condemning the Nixon administration's crimes against the Vietnamese people, and urging a halt to US bombings of North Viet Nam and the US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

On August 8, protestors representing the British Society of Social Responsibility in Science displayed slogans reading : "Nixon must stop the devastation of Viet Nam !", "We urge that Nixon be tried before the Nuremberg Tribunal !"...

o Cuba :

The Cuban Communist Party Central Committee has recently launched a campaign of nation-wide denunciation of Nixon's crimes in Viet Nam, and decided to observe August 28 as "Dyke Day," the focal point of the protest drive.

On this occasion, the Cuban Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos issued an appeal calling for a drive of "International condemnation of US bombing of the DRVN dyke system." The appeal wrote : "Nixon is even more hypocritical, tricky and stubborn than Hitler. He has made use of science in service of barbarism and is ready to perpetrate new crimes. All the nations' duty is to intensify their condemnation of the imperialists' savage crimes and reaffirm their warm support for the Vietnamese."

IN BRIEF

US airmen on a carrier off the Viet Nam coast oppose war

o Bulgaria :

During the "Solidarity with Viet Nam Month," large numbers of youths and students throughout the country actively took part on August 10 in the "Day of Voluntary Labour for Viet Nam" sponsored by the Dimitrov Communist Youth Union Central Committee to raise money for Viet Nam.

Students belonging to the C. Botev National Shock Brigade and their Vietnamese mates in Bulgaria fulfilled by 101.26 percent the plan assigned to them. In other places, many teams achieved their plans by 110 percent.

o The United States :

o On August 13, marchers from such antiwar organizations as the newly-founded "People's Blockade," the "People's Coalition for Peace and Justice "... from Seattle, Portland and Eugene streamed to Bangor military port, the starting point of Viet Nam-bound weapons-loaded ships, demanding an immediate halt to US aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina.

o Philip Jessup and Earnest Gross, respectively former US permanent representative and deputy permanent representative to the UNO, have sent letters to Nixon scoring his hushing up the truth on the air attacks in Viet Nam, especially the destruction of DRVN dykes, and pressing for a prompt end to such atrocities.

o Many American seamen on August 10 held a meeting at the US naval base in Yokosuka (Japan) and then paraded in the city in protest against the US use of Japanese territory for its war in Viet Nam. At the rally, Lawrence Zambanini, a crew member of the aircraft-carrier "Oriskany", declared : I protest the Viet Nam war, a war which has inflicted thousands of casualties.

The Viet Nam issue, first and foremost concern of mankind

IN the past month, the protest movement against the Nixon administration's genocidal war in both South and North Viet Nam, and bombing of DRVN dykes and hydraulic projects continued to gain in intensity and magnitude in all parts of the world.

From the Soviet Union, China, the KDPR, the GDR, Cuba, India, Sri Lanka, Japan, Bangla Desh..., from Sweden, Luxemburg, France, Britain, West Germany, Denmark, Switzerland..., from Syria, Iraq, the People's Democratic of Yemen, Kuweit, Algeria, Guinea, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Mali, Tanzania, the People's Republic of Congo... to Guiana, Chile, Venezuela, Argentine, Mexico... and the US resounded angry condemnations of Nixon as a "genocidal president," an "infamous pirate," a "big swindler," a "beast in man's clothes"..., scoring the White House and Pentagon's hysterical war acts as the "peak of inhumanity," a "major offence against justice," a "new Hiroshima"... and urging formation of a "2nd Nuremberg Tribunal to try Nixon and company."

Huge meetings, demonstrations and other nation-wide activities were repeatedly staged in many countries during the months of friendship, weeks of solidarity with Viet Nam, drives of denunciation of the US imperialists' crimes in Indochina and "International Day of Protest Against US Bombing of Viet Nam Dykes."

The Soviet people who had just wound up a "Month of Soviet Friendship and Solidarity with the Vietnamese People Fighting Against the US Imperialist Aggression," took an active part in the "Dyke Day" (August 28). Several organizations of China and other countries as well as various international and regional organizations such as the World Peace Council, the OSPAAAL, the OSPAA, the International Union of Students, the World Council of Churches, and Arab liberation organizations issued anti-US statements, and sent messages to their Vietnamese counterparts reaffirming their firm support for Viet Nam.

In warm response to the anti-US protest drive sponsored by the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, Cubans organized hundreds of meetings, talks, gatherings and court sittings to bare the US crimes and other activities at various production establishments, public offices, schools, hospitals and street districts. On "Dyke Day" alone, rallies were staged with tens of thousands of participants displaying these slogans: "Nixon listen, Viet Nam's morale and sense are higher than US aircraft's altitude. Withdraw immediately your claws from the dykes", "Nixon, get out of Viet Nam's skies, you are polluting its air", "Long live Viet Nam"...

Japanese stopped convoys of Viet Nam-bound US armoured cars, and on "International Day of Protest Against US Bombings of Viet Nam Dykes," they ebulliently participated in meetings and demonstrations in Tokyo, Shizuoki, Hokkaido...

In Sweden, the anti-Nixon campaign was initiated in many cities, such as Umea, Uppsala, Taby, Strangna... In Stockholm, a big rally was held on August 24 in heavy rain with participants including several old agers and women pushing perambulaters from the outskirts of the city. A mother with her baby in her arms, said: "Bad weather is nothing compared with the Vietnamese people's sufferings and courage. We want to voice our solidarity with, and support for, the fighting Vietnamese, rain or shine, summer or winter."

In West Germany, after the inauguration of the Olympic Games in Munich, 5,000 people mostly youths, carrying NFL flags, wearing masks and helmets and riding on trains or special buses, streamed to the city from various parts of the country. They chanted "Down with the US Imperialists, Enemy Number One of Mankind," and held high the slogan "Double-dealing of Imperialism: Genocide in Viet Nam and Peace Farce at the Munich Olympics."

At their living quarters, four petitions were signed by athletes including many Americans, to be sent to Nixon pressing for an end to US bombings of the DRVN.

In the United States, series of protest actions broke out in Miami, San Francisco, New York and many other cities, especially during the Republican Convention, for an immediate end to the war and the bombings, in defiance of police terror and repression. "Hitler rose and Hitler fell, dump Nixon" was the outcry of progressive Americans against the White House boss, the Republican Party's representative.

Money collections and blood donations for Viet Nam have been stepped up in the GDR, France, Britain, Sweden, Czechoslovakia...

In the GDR, workers at an engineering plant in Berlin contributed over 35,000 marks to the Support Viet Nam Funds. In Sweden, within a short period of time, the collected amount rose to 350,000 kronors. In Czechoslovakia, the Socialist Youth Union at a car repair factory presented to the local Vietnamese representative 4 cases of plasma together with a letter reading: "We strongly protest against the US imperialists' bombing, strafing, mining and blockading Vietnamese ports, massacring civilians and causing sufferings to the Vietnamese. These horrors of the US imperialists are undeniable crimes."

The world people's sympathy and support for the Vietnamese and other Indochinese peoples' just cause has also been unequivocal in statements, resolutions and appeals by important international conferences such as the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries' Foreign Ministers, the 18th World Conference Against A and H Bombs, the World Religious Conference for Peace and Justice, the European Catholic Conference, the All-African Women's Seminar, the 2nd Asian-African Women's Conference... These resolutions and statements, especially the Georgetown Conference's decision to admit the delegations of the RSVN PRG and the Royal Government of the National Union of Cambodia as full members of the non-aligned bloc, struck a heavy blow at the US imperialists' misuse of the atmosphere of detente in a number of countries to perpetrate more heinous crimes in Viet Nam and Indochina in an attempt to check the world revolutionary trend.

Remarkable enough in the universal Support Viet Nam movement in the past period were the activities of the Delegation of the "International Commission of Investigation of US War Crimes in Indochina" comprising Swedish lawyer G.Franck, former US Attorney-General Ramsey Clark, former Irish Foreign Minister L. MacBride, former Danish Minister F. Jakobson, French Professor of Geography Yves Lacoste and hydraulic expert Daniel Mandelbaum. Back from North Viet Nam, members of the delegation gave press conferences and talks, speeches and TV interviews in Paris, London, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Washington, San Francisco, Vientiane, Bangkok..., scoring the Nixon administration deliberate air raids on dykes, populous areas in cities, towns and countryside, and civilian establishments namely dwelling houses, hospitals, churches, pagodas and schools in North Viet Nam. After relating what they had seen on the spot including US air raids and with irrefutable proofs such as films, photos, tape-recordings, documents, bomb fragments and some unexploded steel-pellet bombs..., the delegation members confirmed that the bombings were wilful and genocidal and constituted unpardonable and legally indefensible offences. They also exposed the Nixon administration's hypocritical assertions that it did not intentionally bomb dykes, that the damage inflicted could be quickly done away with and caused little harm, and that the dyke system in North Viet Nam had not been properly maintained. Braving threats and base slanders by the Nixon administration, former Secretary Ramsey Clark held press conferences in Washington and San Francisco, and testified before a US Senate Sub-Committee and in many other places against Nixon's atrocities. Nobody could brainwash me into believing, he said, that this country (the DRVN) had not been extensively attacked and that only military targets had been destroyed.

Together with foreign visitors' recent activities in Viet Nam, the delegation has played an important part in exposing the Nixon warlike clique and in impelling the world movement of support for Viet Nam and against US aggression.

Besides joining public opinion in promptly condemning the US imperialists' war crimes, the world progressive press circles, especially in Cuba, Iraq and Syria have repeatedly bared Nixon's "withdrawal of ground forces" and "ending of the ground war by American troops" in South Viet Nam coupled with the highest level of the air war in both parts of Viet Nam. They have also denounced the US for prolonging and sabotaging the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, spreading rumours to deceive public opinion and help the Nixon presidential electoral campaign.

It has become apparent that Nixon can no longer fool anybody in the world. The Viet Nam issue has become the first and foremost concern of mankind.

"Viet Nam has been fighting and winning the war for the sake of all mankind. Viet Nam has been shedding her heroic blood in defence of all the peoples in the world. Viet Nam pledges solidarity with all the peoples who are fighting against exploitation, imperialism, old and new colonialism. Let us fight and win because of Viet Nam." (*Granma*, July 26).

Such is a dictate of the conscience of all the peoples, irrespective of complexion, age, religions and political tendency, directed against the biggest war criminal of our time.

DINH BA

Despite repression, thousands of Americans demonstrate and besiege the Republican National Convention Hall at Miami, protesting against Nixon's war escalation